

LATEST NEWS IN VACCINES

OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE VERMONT COVID-19 VACCINES

By **ABIGAIL CHANG & LUCY TOWNEND**
Senior News Editor
& Senior Local Editor

Out-of-state students who are attending college in Vermont are ineligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, Gov. Phil Scott said during a press conference on March 30. Students also cannot use their college addresses to claim Vermont residency, according to Scott's response to a Vermont Cynic reporter's question in the same conference.

Scott said that students who are both Vermont residents and college students in the state may be vaccinated, but those who maintain their out-of-state residency cannot be at this time.

"Depending on what we get for a supply when we get to the end, we may be able to fulfil that and offer it to those from out of state," Gov. Scott said. "But at this point in time,

we want to make sure that we take care of Vermonters first — as other states have done as well — and then we'll move on to the next phase if possible. But that will be after we get to 16 and over Vermont students and the Vermont population."

This announcement came as a surprise to many students, as college students are counted in the Vermont census and are able to vote in local elections. And many out-of-state students have already received at least one shot in Vermont, or have successfully registered for vaccine appointments.

These guidelines also contradict the information Middlebury shared with students last week, which stated that students would be able to use their college address to register for vaccine appointments.

On March 31, the college advised students not to cancel existing appointments, shared that they have a

plan for facilitating vaccinations on campus should doses become available and noted that students can seek approval to travel to their home state for vaccinations if it is within driving distance.

Gov. Phil Scott doubled down on his rule that out-of-state students (excluding those planning to stay in Vermont during the summer) are ineligible to receive Vermont Covid-19 vaccines in a statement sent to The Campus on March 31. He said the state expects that out-of-state students who do not meet eligibility requirements to be eligible on April 30.

Vermont Commissioner of Health Mark Levine cited the issue of students needing to be in Vermont for both doses — and the fact

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ACCEPTANCE RATE DROPS TO 15.7%, LOWEST IN YEARS



ABIGAIL CHANG/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By **ABIGAIL CHANG**
Senior News Editor

Middlebury's acceptance rate dipped almost 10 percentage points to 15.7% from last year's irregular 24%, marking its lowest point in public record; the acceptance rate for the regular decision round was 13.3%. Nearly 1,900 students received offers of admission out of a record-breaking pool of 11,908 — a 30% jump in applications compared to the year before.

Middlebury was not alone in seeing a larger-than-normal applicant pool this year. Peer institutions also saw a significant hike: Amherst saw a 32% increase and

Colby broke its own record from last year with a 13% increase. Applications to Colgate more than doubled.

Of those admitted, 47% are students of color — a nine percentage-point increase from the previous year. Hailing from 91 countries, 13% of accepted applicants are international students. More than a third of those accepted are first generation students.

This is the first class admitted while the college pilots a three-year test-optional policy; nearly half of all applicants did not submit ACT or SAT scores with their application.

The college anticipates that roughly 720 students will matriculate next year — 620 in the fall and 100 in February.

Confusion spreads as students of color receive conflicting information on Covid-19 vaccinations

By **IDEAL DOWLING**
Local Editor

Before April 1, the official Vermont state Covid-19 vaccine eligibility guidelines did not permit Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) to schedule a vaccination appointment unless they fell into other eligibility categories. However, a number of BIPOC students received contradictory information both by word of mouth and directly from Health Department call center workers and — believing they were eligible — successfully signed up for appointments for as early as April 6.

By Sunday, March 28, word had spread through campus, misleadingly, that all BIPOC students were eligible.

"I heard about it from my friend, who texted me saying, 'Hey, I don't know if you saw, but Vermont is vaccinating BIPOC residents,'" said Henry Ganey '22.

Part of the confusion over BIPOC eligibility in Vermont may have arisen from language regarding eligible groups on the Vermont Department of Health and pharmacy websites.

Kinney Drugs, one of the pharmacies offering vaccination appointments, listed eligible groups on their website including a bullet stating "BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) Vermonters and their households," seeming to imply that all BIPOC Vermonters would automatically be eligible. However, operators of Kinney's vaccine hotline clarified to The Campus that only those living in a household with an already-eligible BIPOC Vermonters qualified.

The eligibility section of the Vermont Department of Health's website read, "If you live with a person who identifies as Black, Indigenous or a person of color (BIPOC), including anyone with Abenaki or oth-

er First Nations heritage, and is eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine, you can also sign up to get a vaccine."

Although the site later clarified its language, many students were left with the impression that all BIPOC individuals were eligible, leading to screenshots of the page being shared widely on social media alongside guidance to book a vaccine appointment.

While the site did not state that BIPOC who were not otherwise eligible — due to age group, occupation or health conditions — could receive the vaccine, call center workers also repeatedly signed up BIPOC students and reaffirmed their eligibility solely by virtue of their racial identity.

Citali Aguilera-Rico '23 was

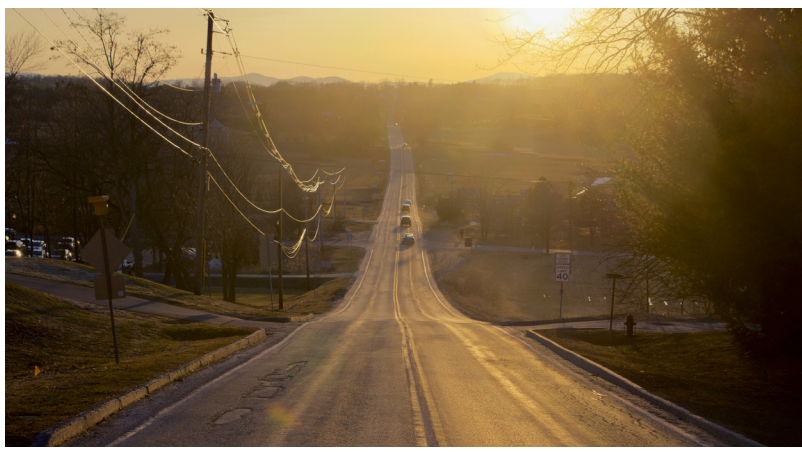
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On-campus students approved for day travel to home states for vaccination

By **ROYA TOURAN**
Senior News Writer

The college has approved a small number of students to cross state lines to get their Covid-19 shot as eligibility criteria — such as having certain pre-existing health conditions — in some students' home states qualify them to receive the vaccine.

Vermont's rigid age-based rollout process has barred students who would otherwise be eligible for vaccines in other states to receive it in Vermont. Students and administrators alike also learned on Tuesday



VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students who are eligible to get vaccinated in their home state may be allowed to leave Vermont for an appointment, but those who live farther from Middlebury or do not have a car have faced greater challenges in accessing vaccinations.

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All Vermont residents of color over 16 eligible for Covid-19 vaccine

By **JACK SUMMERSBY**
Local Editor

All Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) who are permanent Vermont residents over the age of 16 became eligible for Covid-19 vaccination on Thursday, Apr. 1, Gov. Scott announced March 30. Any BIPOC individual eligible for the vaccine can also sign up members of their household. The news comes as

state officials attempt to combat the slower vaccination rates for BIPOC communities nationwide.

As of March 30, 30% of white Vermonters of all ages had received at least one dose of the vaccine. In contrast, only 13.6% of Vermont's non-white residents had received a dose. Of all non-Hispanic white residents 16 and up, 33.7% had received a dose compared to the 21.0% of BIPOC Vermonters in the same age

range.

BIPOC Vermonters have also been disproportionately affected by Covid-19. A December 2020 Vermont Department of Health report found that "BIPOC Vermonters with Covid-19 have significantly higher hospitalization and chronic disease rates," a trend that is present in

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LOCAL

Tornado touches down in Middlebury, injuring two

By **LUCY TOWNEND**
Senior Local Editor

An EF1 tornado touched down near Painter Road in Middlebury during the heavy storms on Friday afternoon, injuring two and causing damage to several houses.

One of the two people injured was a child, who was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. One home near 112 Painter Road was deemed uninhabitable by rescue crews, and the Red Cross was called in to assist the family occupying the home.

Middlebury resident Amanda Werner told NBC5 that she was working outside when winds from the tornado caused her to tumble across the yard. Werner suffered a scalp laceration that was treated by EMTs in the area.

The tornado also ripped trees from the ground, detached a standing garage from a house and flipped a car. Werner Tree Farm, which was in the path of the tornado, suffered minor damage.

Meteorologist Tyler Jankoski and his team at NBC5 were the first to call in the tornado.

"The urgency was there immediately and it was unlike any storm that I've ever covered in Vermont in four years' time," Jankoski said in an interview with The Campus.

According to the Storm Event Database at the National Weather Service (NWS), the tornado on Friday was the second to touch down in Addison County since 1950, with the only other tornado occurring in 1965 in New Haven.

"Out of all tornadoes [in Vermont] since 1950, only one has occurred in March, so it's an extremely rare occurrence," Michael Wasserstein '21 said.

Wassertein worked with NBCUniversal as a meteorology intern for the past few years and taught a winter-term workshop in meteorology.

Jankoski noted that an unusually warm March brought high levels of humidity preceding the storm.

"With climate change, we're seeing warmer spells of weather more frequently than we used to at all points in the year. That opens up the door for severe weather," Jankoski said.

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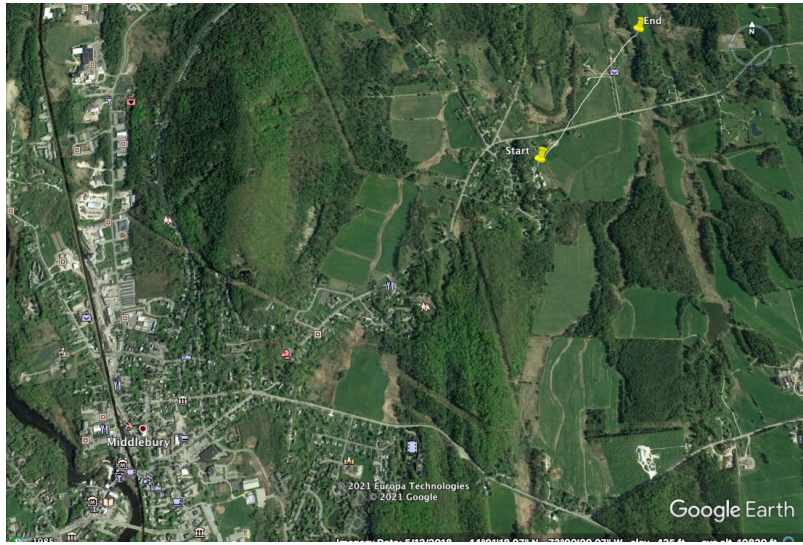


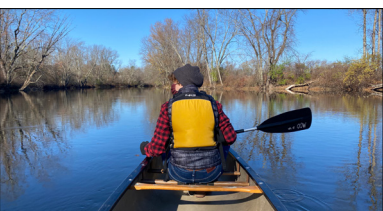
PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL WASSERSTEIN

Using coordinates provided by the National Weather Service, Michael Wassertein '21 plotted the path of the tornado.

NEWS

Campus spiritual life thrives despite pandemic adjustments

By **OLIVIA MUELLER**



Student organizations face membership challenges with pandemic programming

By **PIPER BRADY**

LOCAL



College taps staff and hospice workers for campus Covid testing

By **OLIVIA MUELLER**

ARTS & CULTURE



Preview: 'Same But Different' connects the dots through dance

By **ARIADNE WILL**

Direct Your Attention: A more optimistic playlist

By **OWEN MASON-HILL**

OPINION

Whatever re-floats your boat: Our take on the Suez Canal conundrum

By **THE EDITORIAL BOARD**

Sex Panther: Navigating Midd Tinder

By **SEX PANTHER**

The search for closure as graduation looms

By **JOSEPH LEVINE**

SPORTS

New staff, record numbers, and silver linings: How the pandemic has impacted the Ralph Myhre Golf Course

By **BLAISE SIEFER**

Greg Conrad '17, former two-sport star for Middlebury, now excels as a coach and mentor

By **SAM LIPIN**